

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)  
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON  
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart  
Serial No.: 09/742,023  
Filing Date: 12/20/2000  
Title: SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: M. Thaler  
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-4 CON 7

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please insert a new reference to related applications as follows:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Application

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/742,023 filed 12/20/00 by Rickey D. Hart for SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE, which is in turn a continuation of application Serial No. 09/309,072 filed 05/10/99 by Rickey D. Hart for SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE, which is in turn a continuation of application Serial No. 08/851,528 filed 8/21/98 by Rickey D. Hart for SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE, which is in turn a continuation of application Serial No. 08/851,528 filed 1/21/98 by Rickey D. Hart for SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE, which is in turn a continuation of application Serial No. 08/851,528 filed 5/5/97 by Rickey D. Hart for SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE, which is in turn a continuation of application Serial No. 08/443,093 filed 5/17/95 by Rickey D.